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TO THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS:
ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.

BY THE LATE
JOSEPH PEARSON, ESQ.
MANY YEARS PRINCIPAL DOOR-KEEPER.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A
NUMBER OF POLITICAL CHARACTERS,
AND ENLIVENED BY A
VARIETY OF ORIGINAL ANECDOTES,
FAITHFULLY COLLECTED FROM HIS POSTHUMOUS PAPERS,
BY
TWO OF HIS LITERARY FRIENDS.

A NEW EDITION.

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P R E F A C E.

THE late Mr. Pearson, although no violent republican, was a great stickler for the privileges of the people, and rather an oppositionist. He was a plain, blunt, honest man, of a very peculiar turn of humour. Both Houses knew him well. He was, indeed, so far a leveller, that, if the proudest Peer in the realm addressed him with the smallest degree of haughtiness, he was certain, in return, to meet with a very sharp and ungracious answer. Porter only to the House of Commons, yet wonderful was his power; for every Member in the House found it his interest to have the good wishes and the ear of Pearson. Many were the advantages they reaped from his smiles. On great debates, he would prevent a Peer's son whom he liked not from having a seat, although he would afterwards slip in half a dozen

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dozen friends of a favourite Member: And as to determining when the House was full, the doors proper to be locked, and the key laid on the Speaker's table, even Mess. Norton, Cornwall, and the present Mr. Addington, have all left the decision of that weighty point always to the sagacious judgment of Pearson. Nor did he ever abuse the trust for lucre, though often he has been known to stretch his delegated prerogative for friendship, and more often through mere whim; for he was a singular physiognomist.

If a face, or a manner did not please him, gold could not bribe him into civility, much less to the favour of admission. One stranger might be modest and ingratiating; Pearson, like Thurlow, would only give him a silent contemptuous stare: Another would be rude; Pearson would laugh at his rudeness, tell him the orator of the moment, and, perhaps, shove him in, although he had before refused dozens who were known to him. He would oblige with a growl, and refuse with a grin. If a Member was negligent of his fee, or addressed him pertly, he had many modes of speedy vengeance: The offending Member could never make his entrance or exit through the

the lobby, but Pearson would bawl out, "Who wants Mr. such-a-one!" though no one asked for him; he would teize him to walk to the Court of Requests, to the Gallery, or the House of Peers, in search of a phantom, not a friend. At last, the irritated Member perceiving something of the trick, finding he could have no redress, without incurring the ridicule of the whole House, generally hung out a flag of truce, by the most obsequious demeanor, speedily followed up by a handsome present: for Pearson had his own consequence so much at heart, that he spurned always at the money, if he had not previously humbled the man.

Although not blessed with a classical education, he had such an astonishing portion of keen observation, that he could pretty nearly foretel the period of the termination of every debate, when once it commenced. By the thronging of the Members he foresaw, and nicely calculated its magnitude: By the opening of the first speaker, and the peculiarity of the subject, he guessed pretty accurately all the orators of the night; and knowing the time nearly that each would speak, he has often prognosticated to Peers, guttling
5 Members,

Members, waiters, porters, &c. who enquired of him what time he thought the House would break up; not that his prognostications were always correct within the half hour: This depended very much on no unexpected long-winded Members arising; but we may venture to affirm, that, if the late Mr. Pearson had been made acquainted with a question, seen the manner of the Members coming in, viewed the perturbed faces of Steele, Rose, Phipps, Ryder, Pye, &c. those whippers-in of the Ministerial supporters; hearing, besides, the opening orator set off; the sagacious janitor of the House would most commonly foretel the close of the debate within the hour, sometimes within the half!

As the theatrical time-piece calculates exactly the hours and minutes each drama takes in representation; so Pearson, knowing the subject of discussion, could generally tell how long every Member would harangue on it!

On questions of moment, some of the Members, who wish to be informed when the House will adjourn, enquire when the Speaker has ordered his *coach*! On these occasions, Pearson very often would say, "The Speaker has ordered his coach at *eight*, but I'll be damned if you get away before *twelve*!"

Pearson

Pearson, wonderful to record, was much oftener in the right, as to the adjournment, than the Speaker himself! The old Members never paid much attention, therefore, to the Speaker's coach, but always consulted their oracle, Pearson's mouth.

To prove, for instance, his nice calculation as to the time each Member would speak, Mr. Courtney made a bett with the late Mr. Selwyn, of a dinner at Bellamy's, that Pearson would tell within half an hour the length of the speech of any speaker they fixed on. Mr. Hawkins Browne was just got up: The question was put to Pearson, "Who is up, Barwell?" "Hawkins Browne," answered his deputy. "Hawkins Browne! I'll be damn'd Gentlemen, if that Presbyterian looking fellow will sit down in less than two hours, unless he is coughed down." Both Gentlemen pulled out their watches: Hawkins Browne spoke two hours and ten minutes, and Selwyn lost his bett. A great Personage, as well as his Grace of Queensberry, has had many a laugh against George Selwyn, for thus being foiled as to his opinion of Pearson's prescience.

It would be endless to adduce the many proofs of Pearson's divination in respect to the

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length

length of speeches, or the breaking up of the House. One or two, out of hundreds, we shall only now select. What would make the perusal of his whole life by way of diary entertaining, is, that every thing he uttered contained a singular vein of farcastic humour.

Mr. Sheridan, one evening, asking Pearson, on his entrance, "What's on? who's speaking?" The Chairman of the lobby instantly replied, "India affairs—the Major's up—the House is asleep; why, Sir, hav'n't you brought your *night-cap*?" And to Col. Fitzpatrick, hanging by Mr. Sheridan's arm, he added, "If the House, Colonel, are too sleepy to *cough* him down, by G— they'll soon *snore* him down!"

Gen. Grant, who, although a very social, worthy man, was not in the list of Pearson's favourites, enquiring once of him how long Sir George Younge, the speaking Member, would harangue, he was answered, "As long, General, if he was allowed, as you would be in marching thro' and conquering America." This alluded to the General's well known speech of his, marching through all America, and conquering it with three thousand men.

Mr.

Mr. Grant, instead of being displeased, laughed very heartily, and quietly passed in.

Putting in Mr. Akerman, the keeper of Newgate, one night, late, when the House was very clamorous, he said, "Master Dick, I'm not so much afraid of my prisoners (with the key of the House dangling in his hand) as you are of your's, though mine, you hear, be far more *noisy*."

Pearson said, Beaufoy's speeches were as *sweet* as his own *vinegar*.

Of General Conway, who is remarkable for starting some fresh strong point very late, when the subject of debate seems almost exhausted, Pearson once said, when Conway had risen at one in the morning, "This is the most daring General in the House; for, at the moment every other Officer is retiring with fatigue and despair, he is sure to break new ground, and encamp, to take possession of the field."

It may seem singular, to those who are ignorant of the House of Commons, how their menial, their porter, could thus presume to take such liberty with the august Senators; or that they would condescend to converse so familiarly with their door-keeper. To this it is

answered, that Mr. Pearson having been more than thirty years about the House, and knowing most of the old Members, consequently, when they were young, he had been for many years indulged in such licence of remark and retort, from his age, his anecdote, his humour, and his strict attention to the duties of his office.

The following alphabetical observations, appear to have been executed at different periods, on various scraps of paper, some of them being yellow and moth-eaten with age. The Editors imagine that he must have written, in all, many volumes, as his old intimates report, that it was his constant custom, every night or morning, before he went to bed, to write a diary of the preceding day.

Pity it is, that more of them have not been preserved; at least, that they have not yet been discovered: For it is clear, from the perusal of these his posthumous writings, that they are very incomplete, and are only detached fragments of a very long and extensive work, which might have been much larger than Jacob's Law Dictionary.

Such, however, as it is, it is presented to the world; and the Editors doubt not of its being found to contain many useful observations, and some pleasing anecdotes, that cannot but be truly useful to every Politician, and worthy the library of every British Senator.

PEARSON'S

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PEARSON'S

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A.

ADMINISTRATION.—A majority in Parliament, that do as they please : because they sit on the right hand of the Speaker, they always swear they are on the right side—and so they are, for the loaves and fishes.—Lord Frederic Campbell vows he'll never sit on the left side while he draws breath.—Harry Dundas says, he was always starving with cold and hunger while he sat on that side, although it lay to the southward of the minister ! Now my chair is on the opposition side, yet, by G—, I never was near being starved in my life, except when one of the Reporter's dogs, named Fury, run off with every thing in my cup-board, and threw little Quarme in his flight into Mother Drybutter's basket ; nor was I ever near being starved with cold, unless on a very cold frosty night, when Bootle and Bamber Gascoyne stood for two hours

hours by the lobby fire, as blowers—and by Ch—t they blowed it quite out, with their fat big bums.

ALICE'S.—A Coffee-House, frequented by the Members for *soups*, which Bellamy can't make, and other *refreshments*, while BURKE is speaking.—*Mem.* He never rises but I have directly to open the door to let the Members out.—N. B. *Frank*, who has lately had his hair tied up, and powdered, would never have any custom at all but for his *soups*; for the stupid dog can neither *write*, nor *read*, and ha'n't a word to say.

AMENDMENT.—A measure that the House of Commons very *rarely* agree to.

ARGUMENT.—Reasons offered *for* or *against*, any matter under discussion, and which are either *good*, or *bad*, according to the NUMBERS to *approve*, or *condemn* them.—N. B. *Sir Grey Cooper* knows that *argument* never got the Minister a majority; and so does *George Rose* too.

ASSOCIATION.—A club of bold, hearty fellows, both in and out of doors, who meet, to *restore*, not reform, the Constitution, according as it was established at the Revolution, as young Whitbread told me; who says, that Parliaments were settled then to sit but for *three* years!—*Mem.* He says besides, that it was the Duke of Devonshire, and the House of Peers, in the year fifteen, who gave the Commons leave to sit

fit *seven* years instead of *three*! What right (*Mem.*) had they to give the Commons leave? Did they or the Commons *ask the people's leave*? Major Maitland, whom I ax'd about it, said "No!—Pearson, the Parliament of those days robbed the people of their triennial Parliaments, owing to their pretended fears of the Pretender's friends bringing in a Popish or Jacobite majority, in case a new Parliament was called during the rebellion. All we want, Pearson, is to restore this Revolution-right of triennial elections to the people; and, by that means, *support*, not overturn or deface, the Constitution. —As to Pretenders, we have no pretenders now to fear, unless it be the *Pretender Pitt*, who has kicked away the reform-ladder by which he ascended into popular favour, and, looking up in the clouds of his ministry, foregoing all his former patriotic principles, swears the time is not now ripe, forsooth, for a reform, because he has a *great majority in Parliament*!—But, Pearson, we are determined that the association shall never be dissolved, until it has obtained its glorious purpose!—namely, *short* Parliaments, as *established at the Revolution*, and an equal representation of the people, according to property and population, by lopping off the rotten boroughs, and scattering those loppings throughout the counties, cities, and towns of all Great Britain in such a manner, that property

and population shall be our sole guide what districts are sufficiently represented, and what not!—And why, Pearson, (continued he,) shall a copy-holder, a great manufacturer, or a monied man, because they are not free-holders, be debarred their franchise of election, altho' worth many hundreds per annum; while a poor creature who has what is called a freehold, shall enjoy and consequently very often *dispose* of his vote thro' his poverty! Indeed it many times happens that he has little else to live on!—No, no, (concluded he,) as our designs are truly constitutional, we shall never be frightened by a venal, sordid, and interested aristocracy, from restoring the parliamentary purity to the Prince and the people—for, believe me, Pearson, the Reform will not give more liberty to the Nation than to its King; as he will not then be over-awed, nor thwarted in his virtuous designs by an *unconstitutional phalanx of borough-salesmen*, but guide in every glorious and worthy pursuit, the real voice of a loyal people, whom he can then much more easily command, than he can at present the formidable host of *Borough-Sovereigns*, when their views jar with his interests and that of his people!" That spirited young man would have said a great deal more, but he was lugged away by Lambton and Francis up to Bellamy's.—Well; I say, Success to the Association; for as they
may

may extend the number of members, by Ch---t, it will bring more good guineas into my pocket. I wish, by the L—d that they would convert Westminster Hall into the Commons, and fill it with ten thousand members!—Heavens! what a number of guineas I'd then get!

AYE.—A Lacedemonian oration, as Courtney calls it, spoken sometimes all at once by two-thirds of the House, who can say nothing more. I wish there was never any other long speeches, as I'd then get home in time to smoke my pipe.

B.

BACK-STAIRS.—A way up to the gallery, where little fat Shiells can touch the *half-crowns*.—N. B. There are other *back-stairs*—and the Marquis of Buckingham knows it.

BELLAMY'S.—A damn'd good house, up stairs, where I have drank many a pipe of red port. Here the Members, who cannot say more than *Yes* or *No* below, can speechify for hours to Mother Bellamy about beef steaks and pork chops. Sir Watkin Lewes always dresses them there himself—and I'll be curst if he ben't a choice hand at a beef steak and a bottle, as well as a pot and a pipe.

BRANDY.—A comfortable liquor, as hot as Pepper Arden, as strong as Harry Dundas, as clear as Charles Fox, as red as Alderman

Curtis, when he's blushing at getting a biscuit contract—ha! ha! ha!—It's a liquor, in short, that makes me at first as lively as Billy Baker—but if I take too much of it I feel myself as dull as Dolben, and stupid as Hawkins Brown.

C.

CALL OF THE HOUSE.—A general summons of all the Members, on any great question, when the sense of the whole House is judged necessary, and the nature of the business does not sit easy on the Members' stomachs. Notwithstanding this injunction, it is seldom, or never, however, that the whole House is got together; a great many of the Members being very ill, or falling sick all on a sudden.—*Mem.* The playhouses are not the only places where the *performers* are suddenly indisposed. I don't pretend to tell a story as well as *Col. Barré*, but the messengers were once sent to fetch poor *Col. Roberts*, one of the Members for Taunton, who had neglected to obey the call of the House. The messengers went, as if the Colonel had actually committed treason, and they were to bring him to town neck and heels; but the poor Colonel, who never sat in Parliament before, was found *fishing* in the neighbourhood of Taunton, not thinking of any manner of harm; and this was so generally believed by the House, that

that he was immediately discharged upon paying the expences that had been incurred on the occasion.—*Quere.* Were not the other Members *angling*, as well as the Colonel, and in a *better* place? But the Colonel, being a young Member, didn't know, perhaps, the proper *bait*.

CHAIR.—A thing made of wood that the Speaker and I sit in; the Speaker *in the House*, and I *in the Lobby*. *Quere.*—which has the worst *birth* of it?

CIVIL-LIST.—A provision for paying a great number of servants that the public are in no want of. A very *uncivil* list for the people. Formerly *white* wands were used by *conjurors*. The Marquis of S——y can have one now.

CLOCK.—A thing placed over the gallery, apparently to shew the time; but used by the Minister to draw the Members' attention at a late hour, by way of putting an end to a debate, when he is *tired* of it.—N. B. Ten o'clock is the hour the Members are supposed to meet at, but four and even five o'clock is now an early hour for beginning business, especially when a great deal is expected to be done. Formerly Members began their proceedings by nine, took their pipes in the smoking room, and got home to supper by seven or eight.—*Mem.* When a long debate is expected, I always get my dinner before I come down.

COM-

COMMITTEE.—When the House is in a Committee, the mace is taken from before the Speaker, and laid under the table. This is a comfortable time for the poor Speaker, who, upon the House going into a Committee, always quits the chair, and gets a snug dinner in his room up stairs,—The chairman, however, of the Committee, an office for which *Master Ord*, or any other dull member, is generally put into, has a shocking birth of it, since; when the House is in a Committee, any Member, and every Member, may speak, not only as *long*, but as *often* as he pleases, and the poor Chairman is bound to hear him. It is in a Committee, the *loquaciousness* of the Members, and their fondness for speaking, is discovered, and ascertained. *Sir George Yonge* has been known to be up *forty* times in a Committee, and after all to complain to the Chairman of a want of candour, and an opportunity of speaking, though he has not risen, he has confessed, for the purpose of *agreeing* or *objecting* to the question under discussion—but merely to offer a few observations to the consideration of the Committee.

CONFIDENCE.—A firm and implicit belief in whatever the Minister says, though it is against the general rule of his conduct, and a full acknowledgment of his having done *right*, when he is well known to have done *wrong*.—I never pay a bill before I know that I owe it.

CON-

CONSCIENCE.—A thing that few people seem to care a damn about, if one may judge of it from the readiness with which they *give* it to the Minister.—Sir Rob. Walpole was an open dealer in this commodity; and wasn't *ashamed* of his trade—but every thing is now *under the rose*.

CONSTITUTION.—A Minister that may do just as he pleases; a majority in Parliament at his service; and whatever supplies may be asked for.—N. B. I have sat in my chair a damn'd many years, and never found it any otherwise.

CONTRACT.—A thing that will make a man vote *either* way. I never found it fail yet, from the *money-contractor* HARLEY, down to the *Wapping-biscuit* Baker, MASTER CURTIS. Does *Brook Watson* think me a *liar*?

COUNTING-OUT.—Forty Members form a House; and though there be ever so many at the beginning of a debate, yet, if during the course of it, the House should be deserted by the Members, till reduced below the number of forty, any one Member may have it adjourned, upon its being counted; not but that a debate may be continued when only ten, or five Members are left in the House, provided no one chooses to move an *adjournment*. Lord George Gordon once rose, and desired leave to read a pamphlet, which was granted, but requesting to read another book immediately afterwards,

afterwards, and taking the *Bible* in his hand, his Lordship continued reading from it, till the House, from upwards of *four* hundred Members, dwindled by degrees into *two* only, viz. the *Speaker* and *Lord George* himself, who had the indecency to keep the former till the candles were fairly in the socket.

COUNTRY-GENTLEMEN.—A set of honest, well-meaning Members, who come up to town to vote the supplies, and afterwards go down into the country, to make their neighbours happy with the flourishing state of public affairs.

CUPBOARD.—A snug place for keeping a *sup* and a *bit* in, on long debates.—My late partner, *Barwell*, often got at my bottle. I never meddled with his tobacco.

D.

DEBATE.—When the debate takes a turn against the Minister, and the *Tellers* think he has not friends enough in the House to carry the question, the Attorney, or Solicitor Generals, or both of them, get up, and contrive to lengthen out the debate, till a sufficient number of Members can be brought down to the House from the different places of fashionable resort in Saint James's Street, and Pall-Mall, where they are sent for by half a dozen runners, kept in the Lobby for that purpose. This is some-

times done on the Opposition side.—N. B. *George Byng* can always tell *how* the whole House, even to a single Member, will vote in case of a division.

DINNER-BELL.—A bell rung upon the winding up of a debate, for the Members up stairs at Bellamy's to come down, and do as they are bid.—N. B. A good excuse for some to leave their bills unpaid.

DIVISION.—A thing that very often produces a good understanding, though it *seems* to separate the Members. When it happens very late in the morning some are apt to make a cursed mistake, and to go on the wrong side. I remember old *vow to G—d*, Nugent, once did this, and went amongst the *Ayes*, when he should have finished his nap with the *Noes*.

DRYBUTTER.—The name of a woman attending the Lobby with oranges, who knows more of the Members *private* affairs than all the old bawds in Christendom put together. 37

DUNDAS.—A tall, raw-boned Scotsman, with a bag of words in his mouth, a little wig on his head, brags in his face, a weathercock in his hand, and power in his eye. I never see him swaggering up the Lobby with Pitt, but I turn sick, and recover myself in my cupboard, by the comforts of a dram.

DUNS.—Fellows who come after the Members, like myself, for money, or places for their relations,

lations, to rub off their scores. I know many who have paid their debts thus by places. —*Mem.* Have had a great deal of trouble with the late Lord Verney, who stooped, poor man, like a porter, under the enormous weight of his duns —*Mem.* There are a great many others I could mention; but, as Lord Galway once said to me on this score, “Pearson, *mum!*”

E.

ELOQUENCE.—The art of persuasion.—*Mem.*

Behind the Bar, just within side the House, there is a little closet, with a curtain of green baize, in which the Deputy Serjeant sleeps on late nights.—N. B. A great deal of *eloquence* has been used on the pinch of a debate behind this curtain, by Jack Robinson and others.

ESTIMATE.—A statement of the necessary expences of the current year, in any one of the different public offices, and calculated to such a nicety, as not only to tell how many millions, hundreds of thousands, thousands, hundreds of pounds, and pounds, may be necessary, but also how many *shillings*, *pence*, and *farthings*, will be wanted; for, as the Representatives of the People are called together, to take care of their money, it would be wicked, indeed, not to do their duty; and it may be fairly said, that the majority never *see* any error in the accounts delivered

livered in.—N. B. As a remarkable instance of this, 16,000*l.* were allowed for the mere printing of a county bill.

F.

FACTION.—A set of honest fellows, determined to support the Constitution on its true principles. P—tt pretends as much, but d—me if I ever thought him in earnest.

FINANCE.—*Sheridan* makes even this dry subject *pleasant*, as well as *instructive*. But how the devil can the House keep awake, when *David Hartley*, or his brother the *Major*, get hold of it? There is *Lord Newhaven*, too, a terrible bore this way. I don't pretend to be a *Poet*, but, as *Pye* would say —

Whole hours he talks of arithmetic,
And makes things clear as any *candlestick*!

FOX.—A dark man, with a fair heart. The terror of knaves, the exposé of cheats, and the supporter of the rights of Englishmen. Demme, but he is as clever a fellow as e'er crack'd a biscuit, and many thousands I've seen him eat on hot nights. Like the Prince, he always says, "Pearson, how are you?"

G.

GALLERY.—A place up stairs where strangers are admitted to hear the debates, and take a *nap* when tired out with dull speakers.—N. B. Can always tell when Sir Henry Houghton is up.

GENERAL-SHOVE.—A push that the strangers make to get into the House my way, when the Gallery doors are locked, and the key laid on the table.—N. B. *Jem Sheridan* is always sure to be one of the first. I always let in *Dennis O'Bryen* without any *fuss*, though God knows he never yet gave me a farthing; but he's a good clever fellow, and a great favourite with my friend Charles.

GOING HOME.—A signal for dinner.—*Mem.* I can always tell the Members invited to take their *mutton* with the Speaker, by their pushing out first.

GUINEA TRADE.—*W. Wilberforce* may talk against it as much as he pleases; but, for my part, it is the best trade going. I have been in it a great many years, and will never agree either to an *immediate* or a *gradual* abolition of it; Not but that I have had my losses in the Guinea Trade as well as others. I remember I once had a good *joke* with *Sir Samuel Hanway* on the subject. He had forgot, at the end of the Session, to give me my Guinea; When he came
the

the next year, the momen the entered the Lobby I had my eye upon him; "*Who wants Sir Samuel Hanway?*" cried I, with the lungs of *Dick Rigby*, though no one had ever asked for him. Egad, the *Baronet* was *down* upon it, and comes up to me directly with his purse: "*A word with you, Pearson,*" says he, and puts a *Guinea* into my hands. Egad, Sir, cried I, *two* if you please, and set all the people laughing. I don't know how the worthy *Baronet* relished the *joke*, but he never afterwards forgot to give me my *Guinea*.

H.

HEAR! HEAR!—A note of approbation used by one side or the other of the House, whenever any thing is said to please it by its respective friends. Sometimes *Hear! Hear!* is vociferated on one side upon something being said on the other; not that it likes it, but merely to *pin* it down to the words used. And sometimes both sides will roar out *Hear! Hear!* at what has fallen, both thinking it in their favour, and tending to serve them.—*Mem.* I have often thought it rather puzzling to determine *which* side had most right to call out *Hear! Hear!*

HODGE-PODGE.—The name of a bill passed at the end of the Session, to *lick* up every little thing forgot through the negligence of the Secretary of the Treasury, or the hurry of business,
and

and which may be compared to a *parish-pudding*, from its containing a bit of every thing.

I.

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS.—Those who have not yet had their *price*. *Sir Robert Walpole* said, that *every* man was to be bought. But *what* could have bribed *Alderman Beckford*, who once publicly asked the Minister in the House, what he could do to influence *him*, who paid his first clerk a salary of *one thousand Guineas*!—N. B. It was very true, *Captain Collet* was the man, and the Minister cou'dn't have brib'd him any more than the Master.

INNOVATION.—Restoring the British Constitution to its *original* purity.

IN'S.—A set of persons who would never be *out*, but who are not very ready to perform their promises, of bringing *in* those who have served them, as the number of their followers daily prove. It is the *In's* that give me the most trouble; and I am obliged, whether I will or no, to hear the complaints of all, who come after them for the *places* they have been amused with at the last election, and who, like *Sir Francis Wronghead*, would willingly take a snug thing, of a *thousand a year* or so, just to begin with. Many a round paunced, ruddy-faced rogue of an elector have I had boring me for *his* Member,

as if to take possession of some place or other; when the Member, upon seeing him, has scarcely so much as recollected him, or has kept him in town upon promises till he has been as lean and as lank as old *Elves*. If I was stone blind, and sitting in my chair, I could tell whether any of the *In's* were coming, from the Minister himself down to *Master Penton*, the King's letter-carrier: Damn me, they're all as proud as the Devil.

J.

JACOBS.—A well known house, kept by a black fellow of that name in Old Palace Yard, and frequented by the servants of the Members, who have a kind of *rendezvous* there till the Lords and Commons are up. The Knights of the Whip, and party-coloured tribe, here fancy themselves as great as their Masters, and are always talking of the speeches *they* have made, and when *their* House will be up. Here, too, bills are frequently brought in, and read a *first*, *second*, and *third* time; and *Master Jacobs* obliged, after all, to set up a *Devil* to Lord Thurlow, a *Doctor* to the Speaker, a *Welsh Rabbit* to Lord Kenyon, and three farthings worth of vinegar to Sir Pepper Arden, and a thousand other articles; for the rogues have, all of them, the impudence to use their master's names.

KEY.

K.

KEY.—A large piece of iron, hammered and filed by a smith, with which I *confine* all the free and independent Members. Though Pitt, as Minister of the day, may think he is governor of the House, yet he is damnably mistaken; for, don't I keep the *keys*? and who is the Governor, that don't?

KING'S FRIENDS.—A set of people particularly attached to the King and his prerogative. During the discussion of the Regency Bill, several Peers and Commoners, namely, the Duke of Queensberry, the Marquis of Lothian, and others, who were thought his Majesty's staunch friends, deserted the throne, and got the name of *Rats*. Thurlow said, he would never quit his King. I wish he may not, but I'm afraid he will be obliged to do it.

L.

LOAN.—The raising money in time of war of the most *friendly* bidders by way of *douceur* to the supporters of Government.

LOAVES AND FISHES.—According to the Scripture, the Loaves and Fishes used formerly to serve the *Multitude*; but now the *Few* have all the Loaves and Fishes, and the *Multitude*
are

are left to starve.—*Mem.* The *Marquis of Lansdown* says, the poor people can't live without eating. *Quere.* Do the Ministry ever think about it at their *Cabinet* dinners?

LOBBY.—A place crowded with *Members*, and other *Servants*, and as noisy as a *Jews' Synagogue*, till the High Constable, and his assistants, clear it of all the strangers, except those *Reporters* who have been too lazy to come in time to get into the Gallery, and who, in that case, write all the debates in the *Lobby*.—*N. B.* The *Members* shou'dn't choke up the fire-side, nor come whisking in and out, from the different coffee-houses, just to know who's speaking, and when the debate will be over. Little *Mackley* is a terrible bore this way.

LONG.—The name of a Member, who is the *shortest* man in the House.

LONG SPEECHES.—*Charley* and *Pitt* are both of them clever fellows, and so is *Sheridan*. Every body, let him be of what side he will, likes him. He was always a great favourite of mine. He takes care of my *Guinea*. It was those cursed long speeches, though, that first gave me the gout, and set my poor partner, *Barwell*, drinking common gin. I don't mind, however, three or four o'clock in the morning, if the speakers are but good ones. But there is *General Conway* always sure to get up at the close of a debate, and to open a new field of argument,

ment, that leads the Lord knows where. I was in hopes that long speeches would have been knocked on the head, when the Ladies were excluded from the Galleries: They often used to keep the *Members* up.

LORD.—A name generally given to a man through the means of the Minister, on account of his wealth, or borough interest; or to a Member who may be thought a better *fag* to the Minister in the Upper House, like Sidney, Mulgrave, and Grenville. God knows what they may do *up stairs*, but I'll be damn'd if they were of any use in *our* House. I remember *Lord Townshend*, speaking to me one day on the subject, told me, that the *meaning* of the word Lord, being composed of these four letters, L, O, R, D, was as follows:

L for his Loyalty to the Minister,
 O for his Obedience to the Minister,
 R for his Reliance on the Minister, and
 D for his Division with the Minister.

Mem. I had a hearty laugh with his Lordship, but thought it rather strange that poor *Rolle* cou'dn't be made a *Lord*.

LOWERING THE BRANCH.—The House is lighted by a large chandelier, called a Branch, and, whenever Lord Beauchamp, Conway, Luttrell, or David Hartley, get up to speak, an order

order immediately comes out of the House for *lowering the Branch*, that the candles may be lighted, all likelihood of the House being soon up being entirely at an end.—N. B. When any of the long-rob'd Gentlemen get up, I always call out to the Messengers to have fresh candles ready.

M.

MAJORITY.—A set of people who can make *black white*, and *white black*.

MASTERS IN CHANCERY.—Two *Porters* from the Lords. I wonder there isn't a *bulk* in the long Gallery, for them to pitch their load on in their way, they often bring such *heavy* stuff with them.—N. B. The Lords ought to match them, and not send a tall one, and a short one, a fat one, and a lean one, as if there were not Masters in Chancery enough to be well paired. Little *Quarme* should look to this. *Mem.* The Prince's Porter and *Weltjee*, with suitable wigs, would make two very good-looking Masters in Chancery.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—A meeting of the Peers of Great Britain, and the Representatives of the People, to lay fresh taxes on the Public.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.—A person that
E 2 passes

passes bills for enclosing commons, and mending turnpike roads.

MINISTER.—A man chosen by a junto, to gain and secure a majority, that he may govern a minority in the House, and the million out of it.

MINORITY.—A set of people who cannot even make black *black*, or white *white*.

MOTION.—A manœuvre performed occasionally by both parties, as Lord Amherst told me long ago, in order to make a breach into the enemy's quarters. Formerly the old troops, Fitzpatrick said, such as Germaine, Cavendish, Upper Offory, &c. were employed on this service. Now, however, Ministry send their raw officers on this duty, such as Ryder, Mornington, Grant, Pye, &c. It is true that Opposition, in like manner, put their young troops, too, on this service; but then Whitbread, Maitland, Sir J. Erskine, and Grey, although but young, are all excellent Generals in this mode of attack, and have been known to foil the most experienced of the enemy. Nor is Thompson, too, without spirit. They none of them ever forgot my guinea. Ministers do, to pretend they are *poor*—ha! ha! ha!

N.

NOES.—A monosyllable of the greatest importance in the House of Commons, and a sworn enemy to annual Parliaments, an equal Land-Tax, a Parliamentary Reform, and almost every other good thing that ever comes before the House.

O.

ORANGE WOMAN.—A young, plump, crummy, rosy-looking wench, with clean white silk stockings, Turkey leather shoes, pink silk *short* petticoat, to show her ankle and calf to the young bulls and old goats of the House. The jade has always a clean nice light cotton, or sometimes, towards the end of the Sessions, a sprigg'd, pencil'd, *Members* muslin gown, with a thin gauze neckerchief, by way of enamel, as blunt black Norfolk calls it, to display the swelling pencil of Nature's herald office to more advantage. With her black cloak thrown aside a little, her black eyes, and black hair, covered by a slight curtain'd bonnet, used to sit that young ~~bitch~~ *Mullins*, with a basket of oranges on one hand, and hard biscuits on the other, chiefly for the use of my friend Charley Fox, who seems more relieved by a biscuit, in a hot debate, 25

debate, than I am by a bumper of brandy. Thus accoutr'd, as Lisburne used to say, did that young slut kill more Members with her eyes, and her damn'd sighs, than ever all his brother's soldiers did men in America. Out comes a Member, shoving me aside, and knocking the tobacco-box out of Barwell's hand, brush up he gets to Mullins—Mother Dry, her mistress, leers aside, pretending, the brim, to be warming herself at the brazier—Old Griffin, whispering the young one, puts an orange in his pocket; tells her it is a damn'd dull debate—the House will sit all night—in a whisper requests her to follow him into the Court of Requests, or meet him near the Exchange Coffee-house, Palace-yard, where he has two or three shillings worth of coach in the Yard, beside gold for the girl, or, as good old Burgoyne calls it, Hesperian fruit for her oranges. Trig and demure, the ~~bitch~~ comes back—mother Dry leaves the basket to meet the old Peers—and this orange woman's business is nothing more than to blind the Lobby-loungers by her hard biscuits and her sour fruit, while she takes care, in private, to handle the affairs of most of the National Representatives, in order to relieve and shorten the drowsy fatigues of a long debate.—*Mem.* She never shortened me! although she has Clementson! *mum!*

ORDER.

ORDER.—A point in which the Speaker's cleverness is most shewn, and a matter of great study. The best school for it is the Gallery, where it was learned by Wilberforce, St. John, Banks, Ryder, Elliot, Smith, and even *Pitt* himself. N. B. *Woodfall*, and some others of the Reporters, know more than all put together.—*Mem.* My friend *Hatsell* is tutor to the Speakers.

ORDER OF THE DAY.—Minute of some business appointed for the day.—N. B. When a great debate is expected from it, and a very late night, the Members never come till six or seven o'clock.

OUTS.—A set of civil, modest, well-behaved people, that with all my soul I wish *in*.—*Mem.* *Lord Mountmorres*, that often talks with me about the *Ins* and *Outs*, said, he thought, before he came to this country, that the Ministry and their friends only were *in*, and that all the Opposition were *out*; whereas, he now found, that the one were in the House as well as the other; and it was some time before I could convince his Lordship, that the *Outs* were not the people in the Lobby, and that I, being Chairman there, did not keep order amongst them.—N. B. Am sorry his Lordship has not yet got either wife or place, or a seat in the House.

P.

PAIRING-OFF.—Two sneaking scoundrels, not worth a piece of dog's meat to either party.

—N. B. Bamber Gascoyne was a d—mn'd lazy fellow this way.

PARLIAMENT.—Two Houses where the Lords and Commons meet, for the purpose of *reform-
ing* all such abuses, errors, or defects, in the Constitution, as fraud, time, or casualty, has occasioned. No acts are supposed to pass here, but to reform or amend. No speeches are pretended to be made here but for the same laudable design. Yet it appears to me true, as Sawbridge once told me, that, although the sole business of Parliament be to *repair* that which is *decaying*, and to *restore* that which is *totally decayed*, yet they seldom repair any thing else but *high-ways* and *bridges*; nor *restore*, *secure*, or *amend*, any thing but *their own privileges*!—*Reform*, consequently, as Phil. Francis hints, can never spring from *themselves*, when *that* reformation would be a *diminution* of their own power, though for *the good of the People*. George Selwyn used to convince me of the utter impossibility of Parliament reforming themselves, by sneeringly saying, "Pearson, if you had a *seven years'* lease, would you quietly yield it at the end of *three*, however you came by

it?

it?—Pearson, if *one, ten, twenty, fifty, or a hundred* people could enable you to take your seat within the House, would you agree to a reform where you could not again sit there, unless you were to have the voices of *some thousands for the very same seat?*—“By G—— I would, Sir, as I would then have the *fair voice of the People!*”—

“By G—— you would not, Pearson, as the greater the number the more danger of retaining your seat!”—“Wrong, Sir, (concluded I, although I know not whether I'm right,) for unless a man is a scoundrel, and *sells* his constituents, the greater the number of his electors the greater is his security of a reinstatement, and the greater the honour, therefore, of being continued in his seat!” I'm for a reform, by G——!

PEACE.—Dundas and I differ upon the meaning of this word. I say we are at peace only when the House is up. Now, he says, that we are never at peace but when we are at *piss*! For my part, I am sure this is not true, as I have been doing that for many years in very great pain, notwithstanding the very great quantity of gin and water I have drank for it, by advice of my old friend Lord Hawkesbury, who says it gives him great ease that way.

PRAYERS.—Public acknowledgments every day in the House, previous to the business, of the Members “*having done those things they ought not to have done, and left undone those things they*

ought to have done."—N.B. The late Sir Samuel Hanway could say the latter part of this prayer with a very safe conscience; for he always forgot to give me my *Guinea*; and so do some others that I could mention.

PREROGATIVE.—Certain *crown* privileges belonging to the King, *four* and *six-penny* worth of which go, however, into the pockets of the Minister and his supporters.

PREVIOUS QUESTION.—A cowardly step taken by the Minister to get rid of a motion which cannot be fairly met. When this is judged necessary, a number of Members are always ready, like a body of janissaries, to start up, and do it, by moving the previous question, at the *nod* of the Minister. Many a promising motion has been *strangled* in this manner: Many a good thing has been smothered, as it were, that gave every hope of bringing forth something for the public good! The Members upon this service, notwithstanding, form a very considerable *corps*, at the head of which are *Dundas*, *Morton*, *Belgrave*, *Beaufoy*, *Ryder*, and others. *Woodfall* much dislikes getting rid of a motion by a *previous* question, and never sees an end put to it by this left-handed stroke, without considering it as a foul and deliberate murder. Damn it, I hate to open the door for the Members when they divide in favour of a *previous* question—they look just like so many *assassins*!

PRINCE.—The Prince of Wales is the greatest Prince alive, for he is a Prince of a Fellow—he always says, “Pearson, how are you?” And, as he does not forget my guinea, sometimes four or five, I wish Prince Pitt would be more generous to him with the people’s money, and not throw it away upon damn’d armaments to defend the Isle of Wight, and prevent the Spaniards and Russians from running away with the Royal George at the bottom of the sea, midships over, as Lord Mulgrave calls it.

PROCLAMATION.—A piece of paper pasted on walls, to frighten the people out of their rights; the same as idle cautions against p—g-posts, and of just the same use. People will always know *where* they have a right to p—fs, and will p—fs *when* they please.

PROROGATION.—An end put to the Session by a speech from the Throne, proroguing Parliament for the summer season, during which I enjoy my *venison* and *claret*, and the people are certain of having no fresh burthens laid upon them.

Q.

QUARME.—Deputy Usher of the Black Rod of the House of Lords, who, in the absence of the great *Sir Francis Molyneux*, though a *little* man, could carry the Speaker and House to the Lords any day, by striking the door three times.

QUESTION.—The taking the sense of the House on any matter discussed, and which is supposed to be given, according to the *arguments* used *pro* and *con*.—*Mem. Jack Wilkes* told me once, he'd be damn'd if any Member ever came to the House without having his mind completely made up; and that he believed there never was any one Member ever influenced by any thing said in the House, at least *publicly* said, or that *he* had ever heard.—N. B. I am apt to think the Alderman pretty right; for I have known many questions carried on the side where no argument at all has ever been used, or, indeed, attempted in support of it. Before any motion is determined, it is very easy to tell *which* way it will be carried, as a pretty good guess may be formed from attending to that side which bawls the loudest for it. Sir George Yonge, Ryder, Jemmy Onslow, Lord Muncafter, &c. on these occasions never discover any want of lungs.

R.

REASONS.—Weighty and convincing proofs given to the different Members in favor of a motion, and generally conveyed by the *Secretaries* of the *Treasury*.

REFORM.—I'm told there are two kinds of Reformers. One set who will be content with restoring us *triennial* Parliaments, as was the case

case until the Duke of Devonshire, and the Old Whigs voted and made them septennial in the year fifteen!—*Mem.* Cou'dn't they, by the same authority have made them *perpetual*?—There is another set of Reformers, who not only insist on triennial Parliaments being restored to us, but an equal representation of the people, by abolishing Peers, Commoners, Admiralty, and Treasury boroughs, which they call *rotten* ones; and giving those rights to the populous towns of Manchester, &c. who have no representatives at all. Indeed there is some reason in this. For why should Cornwall alone send near as many Members as all Scotland? Lord Mornington gave me a curious Irish reason for this. "It is, (says he,) Pearson, because as Cornwall is a poor county, and Scotland a poor country, blood and oons, man, is it not very proper that they should both be equally represented?"—*Mem.* I'd forgot—there's another Reform party—Tom Paine's—but, as I'm told, my friend Thomas, (whom I remember with his gauge in his hand, and his ink-bottle at his button-hole, when I was coachman to Sir Paul Methuern,) wishes to kill the Constitution, in order to cure it. I cannot wish well to his plan. I will give Tom a simile in his own stile.—Because a puncheon of rum might taste of the cask, or some villainous officer under Government, draw off a good deal of the spirit, and
supply

supply its place with water, would you, Master Thomas, pretend for to go to tell me, that this cask being prick'd or adulterated, the only way to make it better would be to let it all run out? —I know you are ready to say, Thomas, that you would immediately fill the cask with a better and stronger spirit—but where is it, my little gruff gauger?—Only a spirit in your brain, of no practical proof!—Do you think it would bear your hygrometer, as rum Arkinson call'd it?—No, no, Tommy!—Now I'll tell you what I'd have done with the spirit, which I own has been made damn'd weak and unwholesome by different Ministers.—I'd amend it, to make it better—not destroy it, Thomas.—If I drew a gallon of the weak stuff off at the spigot—or as that b——, Drybutter calls it, the cock, I'd put in an equal quantity of the very best Jamaica *Kingston* at the bung-hole. This plan I'd continue, until I had drawn off all the weak, by degrees, and supplied its place by the strong; in which case, Thomas, our country customers would not be deprived of spirits for a moment, weak I own as it is—and they would soon have the old pure genuine stuff only, without endangering their healths by the staving, and waiting perhaps, a long time, for your New England rum coming of age, which after all, Thomas, would be but New England stuff still; and would not suit the palates of us Englishmen, like

like the old rum we've been used to, which I own, altho' it has been damnably watered, and besides leaks much of late, is when unadulterated the best spirit for a British Constitution! By G— I think so—and may the spirit of our Constitution be improved by strong infusion, as Sheridan says; and not by destruction, for the sake of your ideal new mode of distillation!— You may be a good distiller on paper, Thomas, like Major Scott—but I'll be curst if I admire either of your spirits.

REVOLUTION.—In France, the meaning of this is, allowing a starv'd Frenchman to become as fat as an Englishman, and by the same means—and why shou'dn't they? Why starve a French rabbit more than an English hog? Altho' all the meat in Leadenhall market will not make Lord King so fat as Bootle, yet why the devil shou'dn't my Lord eat as much, if he pleases, as our big-bellied Wilbraham?—In England, the meaning of Revolution is, the changing a bad master, for a good servant, by which the people were effectually served for some years. William, Heaven blefs his memory, gave us *triennial* Parliaments, and would allow no *placeman*, or *pensioner* to sit in our House; but Welbore Ellis told me, that Queen Anne *repealed* the place and pension act, for *reasons of State*, and the Old Whigs did the same by the triennial act,

act, I suppose for the same reason. As all parties cry up, and justly too, the Revolution, why the devil don't they restore us all its benefits? Give us *back* our *Revolution triennial Parliaments*! Give us *back* our *Revolution act*, that *prevented placemen and pensioners* from sitting in Parliament! Give us only these two back in the mean time, and I think we might, in a great degree, defy all corrupt majorities! as well as rotten boroughs!

REPRESENTATION.—A *free* and *unbiased* choice of two persons to represent the people in Parliament, elected on the *nomination* of some *great man*, on the stump of a tree at old Sarum, and other places, where there are no constituents.

RESPONSIBILITY.—A silly word used in Parliament, of no real significance or utility. It is a glow-worm in the eyes of the people, that leads their ideas to places where they behold ribbons, axes, and gibbets, but all is illusion. For all Ministers, I was told by Indian Barwell, here and there, hold responsibility at a vast distance, if not at defiance.

REPORTERS.—A set of people who frequent the gallery for the purpose of reporting the speeches of the Members in the newspapers the next morning, several of which, being too lazy to come soon enough to get in on great days, are continually boring me in the Lobby
to

to know *who's up*, and *what* has been said. Why don't they come in time, like *Woodfall*? Let the doors be opened ever so early, one is sure to see *him* in the gallery, in his old place, with his chin rested on his gold-headed cane, ready for the debate; and it is well for the Members that he, and others, who are clever at it, attend for that purpose; for I always think the speeches are a cursed deal better to *read* than to *bear*. Friend *Perry* tells me, the great art is to know what to *forget*, and not what should be *remembered*; as two thirds, at least, of what is said, would, if put down, entirely spoil the debate, and bring the papers into contempt.—*Mem.* *Perry* says the National Assembly have *short-hand* writers to take down the debates, but I'll be damn'd if their short-hand writers give the speeches like our Reporters. They are a very useful people, and there are none that I so much like to have about me; not, God knows, that I get any thing by them. Little *Sbiells*, who is a mercenary dog, *knuckles* them just as he pleases, and never yet had the good manners to ask me to take a glass of the wine they treated him with. None of the Reporters too ever praised me in the papers; but *Woodfall* may speak well of me, perhaps, when I die. We have always been good friends.

RIDER.—Something tacked to a bill that has been *purposely* omitted, though *pretendedly* thro' mistake, and which is frequently of more importance than the main thing itself.—N. B. *Master Steele* and the Treasury people, know a thing, or two.

RUBBING-OUT.—A cursed hawking, and spitting, and shuffling of the feet, at any Member the House does not like to hear speak. *Sir Joseph Mawbey* was rubbed out the last Parliament.—*Mem.* I am always in fear about my friend Hartley. Major Scott is no friend of mine.

S.

SANDWICHES.—Two small slices of bread and butter, almost transparent, with a thin piece of stale ham, or beef, between them, and used to keep the people in the gallery from famishing, from Eleven o'clock, till six the next morning.—N. B. *Bellamy* charges a shilling for them, and they don't stand him in above two-pence. I once had one from him, and his wife made me pay for it. By the bye, I ought to have had a *feeling* there. *Bellamy's* profit, notwithstanding the Serjeant at Arms, or his Deputy, as *Dick Rigby* once said, when *Cooke* was appointed Pay-Master General with him,
may

may be *put to bed to him*, is a damn'd deal more than my *Guineas*.

SECRET-SERVICE MONEY.—Gratuities, and douceurs, given to persons for services that never were, nor ever will be known, for the best of all reasons, because never performed.—*Quere.* Who has *whispered* Ministry more than I, and yet never touched a farthing for it!

SHORT SPEECHES. — I have oftentimes thought, that the business of the Nation would be carried on a damn'd deal better, if left to those, who always make *short* speeches. My partner, Barwell, and I, once said, we should like to hear a debate carried on by Members who had never yet spoken on any occasion, nor once opened their mouths in the House. *Martin's* a damn'd honest fellow, and says a great deal in a few words. Sir James Johnstone too, is a hearty cock; and if all the Members were like them, one might often have a comfortable dinner at home, and the Nation ne'er the worse for it. They always speak to the purpose, *multum in parvo*, as Lord Belgrave says in *Greek*. By the bye, I wish his Lordship, and that tutor of his there, *Parson Giffard*, wou'dn't always be boring me in my chair with their damn'd *Greek*. I'd much rather be bother'd with *Alderman Lemusier's* Guernsey French. I like good English as well as little *Powney*.

SINKING FUND.—A Fund so called, from its being eternally *draining* to answer the purposes of the Minister.

SLAVE TRADE.—Opening the door of the House of Commons in a great debate, from twelve o'clock at noon, till six, or seven next morning; and being *bored* by the *Marquis of Townshend*, and others, with a thousand inquiries all at one time.

SMOAKING-ROOM.—Formerly this was a room for the Members to smoke their pipes in. Now the only use it is of, is for them to write franks for the Reporters, by way of currying favor with them for good speeches. It is likewise used by the gallery people, to talk politics, when they are driven out of the House on a division.

SPEAKER'S EAR.—A thing that contracts itself, and almost closes, at the sound of *No*, and as wonderfully extends, and opens itself, at the sound of *Aye*.—N. B. On a division, the *Ayes* have frequently been found to have made the strongest impression on the Speaker's ear, though the *Noes* have been five times as loud, and as numerous.—*Mem.* Courtney once told me, that this was to be accounted for by the Speaker being hard of hearing on the left side, and always turning *that* ear to the *Noes*.

SPEAKER'S EYE.—A thing by which the order of the debates are in a great measure regulated.

It

It never rests with the House, whenever several Members seem to get up together, to determine which of them rose first; it depends upon which of them first *caught* the Speaker's eye, and in this the Speaker is as *infallible* as the Pope himself. Indeed, the *quickness* of the Speaker's eye has often very much surprised, it having frequently been known to fix upon a Member the instant he has presented himself to its view, while others have repeatedly endeavoured in vain to catch it. — *Mem.* For my part, I can see in my chair as well with one eye as the other, but, some how or other, the Speaker's eye seems much clearer one side than the other. Some Member's are so sensible of this, that, when they wish to catch the Speaker's eye, they go over to the Treasury side, like *Master Eden*, as if there was something there to attract it. — N. B. I shou'dn't wonder, and I'm no bad prophet, if *Burke*, one day or other, does the same thing, as he seems, at present, to have lost the Speaker's eye. Indeed, I shall never wonder at any thing, after *Tommy Townshend's* giving the left side of the House the slip for the Peerage. — *Mem.* People say, when you get on the blind side of a man, you get into his favour; but it is quite the reverse with the Members when they get on the blind side of the Speaker.

SUPPLIES.—Money voted every year for paying Pensioners, Placemen, and Contractors, and defraying

defraying the expence of uselefs and unnecessary armaments.

SURPLUS.—A thing to cover a Bishop's *deformity*, and the Minister's *deficiency*.

T.

THIS DAY THREE MONTHS.—These are four parliamentary words, signifying *Eternity*! to which all bills are consigned that stand ill in the opinion of the House. By G——, if the Members were to put off my *Guinea bill* for three months, I'd turn the key on them all, and little red-fac'd Shiells and stout Kelly might let them out by the Gallery, if they pleas'd.

TRAIN BEARER.—A person that keeps up the Speaker's train, and follows him into the House, whether he can walk as fast or not, Poor Mann sometimes has the gout!—*Mem.* The Speaker should consider this, and regulate his *pace* accordingly. *A-propos*—when *Sir Matthew Blackstone* was Lord Mayor of London, his right leg was shorter by a foot than his left, and his train-bearer's left leg was as much shorter than his right, so that, when they walked together, the Mayor's right leg *went down* as the train-bearer's left leg went up, and set the folks a-laughing; but Sir Matthew didn't hurry as the Speaker does, but walked grand and solemn.

TREA-

TREASURY BENCH.—A seat, or bench, immediately on the right hand of the Speaker, and supposed to be more easy and comfortable than any other in the House, from the constant desire every one has to possess it. Let any Member be ever so *noisy* and *turbulent*, it is only seating him on the Treasury Bench, and he immediately becomes as *tame* and as *quiet* as a *lamb*. *Lord North* found this a very agreeable seat for many years, and was, at length, so familiarized to it, as to be able to do the business of the nation, just as well when fast *asleep* as broad *awake*. *Sir Grey Cooper* and *Jack Robinson* had only to take it by turns to sit by him, and jog him on the elbow, when it was necessary for him to speak, and it was just the same to his Lordship as if he had been attending with his eyes open during the whole of the debate. A remarkable instance once occurred of this, as follows: *Luttrell* had been upon his legs a considerable time, in the course of which he stated, that he had found out 500,000*l.* at the Treasury that had never been brought to account. As soon as the Colonel had done, his Lordship rose, being first roused from his nap by his friend, *Sir Grey*, and instead of meeting the charge with any sort of trepidation, very coolly and pleasantly thanked the Colonel for the discovery he had made, and congratulated the House that there were 500,000*l.* towards the supplies of the year,

year, and hoped the worthy Colonel would carry his researches into the other offices, and doubted not but that they would be attended with the like happy effect. The Colonel was dumb, the whole House was silent, and the Noble Lord went to sleep again. Many a one has been a number of years getting a seat, I mean a *permanent* seat, on the Treasury Bench; for many will be trying how they like it, but God knows it is a thing *easily* and *quickly* lost. I never blamed myself so much for any thing as I did for taking a slip of paper once from *Robinson*, and putting it into *Charles Fox's* hands one evening, containing his dismissal from the Treasury Bench in very *laconical* terms.—*Mem.* Didn't know what it was about, or I'd have seen *Jack Robinson* at the Devil before I would have delivered it, though I know my friend *Charley* can sit there again whenever he pleases.

TREASURY LETTERS.—Broad *Hints*. Even the *gout* won't excuse a man. My old friend *Nugent* often used to damn them.

V.

VENTILATOR.—An invention to let out the *foul* air of the House.—N. B. It is always opened when *Lord Mulgrave* is speaking, or *Harry Dundas* brings in his India Budget.

UPPER

U.

UPPER HOUSE.—N. B. The *upper* House is not so great as the *lower* House. The Lords may play with the strings of the purse, but it can't be opened but by *us* in the Commons.

W.

WAYS AND MEANS.—The name given to a Committee of great note. The Minister may well be said to get his money on the *high-ways*, for what else are the Customs, Excise, and other things, and that by means of a whole army of officers and collectors; for, as *Hudibras* says, whom *Courtney* quoted to me one day on the subject—

“The Parliament its brains may rack,

“No one will *freely* break his back,

“Or taxes *independent* vote,

“Unless with *bayonet* down his throat!”

WHIPPER-IN.—A fellow that sends for Members to carry a question when the Minister is hard run. My old friend *Jack Robinson* was devilish clever at this. *Rose* is not a bad one, but is cursed *stingy*.

WIGS.—A thing made upon a block by a block-head, composed of thread and horse hair, in order very often to make an ass pass for a man.—

Mem. I'll swear that most of the lawyers, without their horse-hair caps, would look as foolish as that poor old creature Ewer did, when the hilt of Burke's sword took hold of it, and carried it under the clock. I shall never forget Ewer's silly look, when I told him he was going into the House without his wig—both his courage and wisdom so forsook him, that had I not tied him up with my handkerchief, until Taylor borrowed an old wig from old Dr. Hudson, I really believe his head would have turned giddy, and been as cracked as that lank walking willow, 'Squire Drake's.

Y.

YOUNG MEMBER.—A young or an old man, who, being hardly warm in his seat, fidgets about, and runs out and in, to show himself in the Lobby. He is very fond of writing franks, in order to prove his power; and is very troublesome to me, asking a parcel of foolish questions.

Z.—The

Z.

Z.—The last letter in the alphabet, and which the Minister makes on the floor with his feet by bowing to his friend the Speaker, whenever he goes out or into the House.—*Mem.* Some of the Members, on such occasions, make very crooked figures: One makes a Z, another an S; and young Yorke makes a C, just for all the world as if he was dancing a minuet.

FINIS.

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By J. P. BRISSOT DE WARVILLE,

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

A People without Morals may acquire Liberty, but without Morals they cannot preserve it.

*Nemo illic vitia ridet, nec corrumpere, nec corrumpi seculum vocatur - - -
Plusquam ibi boni mores valent, quam alibi bona leges.* TACITUS.

L O N D O N :

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